

July 25, 1953

Mr. Thomas A. Courtenay  
Department of Bacteriology  
Communicable Diseases Division  
A.M.S. Graduate School  
Washington 12, D.C.

Ref. MED-20B

Dear Mr. Courtenay:

Thank you for your letter of the 21st, and the plates which arrived today in good condition.

I wonder if you could help clear up another mystery. About two weeks ago, I received a parcel from the Graduate School containing two cultures labelled as follows:

D139 Kauffmann E. coli received 11-28-52 12-2-52

D1909/52 Vandepitte 12-2-52 E. coli rec'd 12-2-52

I haven't the faintest idea what these are about, nor whom they might be from, and there was no further identification with the parcel. Dr. Weed disclaims them. The only other person at the Graduate School with whom I have been in recent correspondence is Lou Baron.

If these cultures were intended for any one else, I will be glad to forward them, but in any event I would be interested to know why they were shipped.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Associate Professor of Genetics

CC: Dr. Weed